

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

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Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge	WAYNE R. ANDERSEN	Sitting Judge If Other than Assigned Judge	
CASE NUMBER	08 C 2834	DATE	MAY 23, 2008
CASE TITLE	Rodney Arnold (#2006-0060883) vs. Kelly Christl, et al.		

DOCKET ENTRY TEXT:

The plaintiff is granted thirty days in which either to file an *in forma pauperis* application on the enclosed form with the information required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) or pay the full \$350 filing fee. The clerk is directed to send the plaintiff an i.f.p. application along with a copy of this order. Failure of the plaintiff to comply within thirty days of the date of this order will result in summary dismissal of this case.

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■ [For further details see text below.]

Docketing to mail notices.

STATEMENT

The plaintiff, a state prisoner, has submitted a *pro se* civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 but has failed either to pay the statutory filing fee or to file a petition for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Prison Litigation Reform Act requires all inmates to pay the full filing fee, even those whose cases are summarily dismissed. In all prisoner civil lawsuits, the court must assess an initial partial filing fee. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The court will direct correctional officials to deduct the initial filing fee payment directly from the plaintiff's trust fund account. Thereafter, correctional authorities having custody of the plaintiff will be authorized and ordered to make monthly payments to the court of 20% of the preceding month's income credited to the trust fund account until such time as the full filing fee is paid.

To enable the court to make the necessary assessment of the initial partial filing fee, the plaintiff must "submit a certified copy of the trust fund account statement (or institutional equivalent) for the prisoner for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint or notice of appeal, obtained from the appropriate official of each prison at which the prisoner is or was confined." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). Therefore, if the plaintiff wishes to proceed with this case by making installment payments instead of paying the full filing fee in advance, he must file an *in forma pauperis* application on the form required by the rules of this court, (CONTINUED)

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STATEMENT (continued)

together with a certified copy or copies of his trust fund statements reflecting all activity in his accounts in the past six months [that is, from November 15, 2007, through May 15, 2008].

Before pursuing this action further, the plaintiff may wish to conduct some basic legal research, as the court discerns no basis for suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defense attorneys, whether state public defenders or privately retained counsel, are not "state actors" and therefore cannot be sued for damages under the Civil Rights Act. *Polk County v. Dodson*, 454 U.S. 312, 325 (1981). If the plaintiff seeks to have his attorney withdraw from representing him, he should file a motion in his state criminal case, not seek relief in federal court under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Federal courts are largely prohibited from interfering in pending state criminal proceedings, in deference to principles of equity, comity, and federalism. *See Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37, 53 (1971); *Dombrowski v. Pfister*, 380 U.S. 479 (1965). The plaintiff is warned that if a prisoner has had a total of three federal cases or appeals dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or failing to state a claim, he may not file suit in federal court without prepaying the filing fee unless he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

In sum, if after considering the ramifications of the Prison Litigation Reform Act the plaintiff wishes to proceed with this case, he must, within thirty days, **either** file an *in forma pauperis* application on the enclosed form with the information required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) **or** pay the full \$350 filing fee. The clerk will furnish the plaintiff with an *in forma pauperis* application along with a copy of this order. Failure of the plaintiff to comply within thirty days of the date of this order will result in summary dismissal of this case.

The plaintiff is reminded that he must provide the court with the original plus a judge's copy of every document filed.